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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/798,760	03/11/2004	Marcus L. Thuesen	THUE:002	6421

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EXAMINER

PICKETT, JOHN G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3728

DATE MAILED: 05/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/798,760

Applicant(s)

THUESEN ET AL.

Examiner

Gregory Pickett

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 October 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4, 5, 8-16, 18-20 and 24-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8, 10, 27 and 30-42 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4, 5, 9, 11-16, 18-20, 24-26, 28, 29 and 43-49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/31/05.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action acknowledges the applicant's amendment submitted 31 October 2005. Claims 1, 4, 5, 8-16, 18-20, and 24-49 are pending in the application. Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 17, and 21-23 have been canceled. Claims 8, 10, 27, and 30-42 are withdrawn from further consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.
2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Double Patenting

3. The cancellation of claims 3, 17, and 22 obviates the objection under 37 CFR 1.75 for duplicate claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. Claims 1, 4, 9, 11-16, 18-20, 24, 25, 43, and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller, III (US 2004/0010448 A1; hereinafter Miller) in view of Planchard (FR 2422562 A; provided by applicant) and admitted prior art.

Claim 1: Miller discloses a method for advertising wherein an advertisement is placed on a single-serve food product (see paragraph [0002]). Miller does not expressly disclose the structure of the package.

Planchard discloses a pouch container for liquid, power, paste, granules or any solid. Although Planchard discloses a preferred product of cleaning or toiletry products,

the reference does not restrict the use of the package to products. The pouch container of Planchard is of one or more flexible, imprintable sheets **1 & 2**, with one or more pouch portions defining a sealed volume **8 & 9** accommodating a product, and a message section **6 & 7** with an advertisement **10** that is separable from the pouch sections without compromising the integrity of the sealed volume. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the product of Miller in a pouch as taught by Planchard in order to provide the single-serve food product to a vendor at a reduced price (see Miller paragraph [0001]).

As admitted by the applicant on page 20 of the response of 31 October 2005, the use of third party products to cross-ruff manufacturer coupons was known in the art and it would have been obvious to provide the advertisement of Miller-Planchard as a manufacturer's coupon in order to entice the consumer to buy the third party product. Likewise, as admitted by the applicant on page 20 of the response of 31 October 2005, it would have been obvious to distribute the product to a consumer food service outlet with subsequent distribution to the consumer.

Claim 4: Miller teaches the advertisement as pertaining to a product or service other than the packaged product (paragraph [0004]).

Claim 9: Planchard discloses a pre-cut line for separation (translation page 3, lines 24-25).

Claims 11-16: The claimed sizes do not affect the method in a manipulative sense. It has been held that to be entitled to weight in method claims, the recited structure limitations must affect the method in a manipulative sense, and not amount to

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the mere claiming of a use of a particular structure. *Ex parte Pfeiffer*, 1962 C.D. 408 (1961). Further, the provision of the pouch in the claimed sizes would amount to an obvious matter of design choice dependent upon the quantity of product to be provided. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Rose*, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955).

Claims 18-20: Miller discloses sugar or condiment packets, which are granules, liquids, or pastes.

Claims 24 and 25: As admitted by the applicant on page 20 of the response of 31 October 2005, the use of a bar code on a coupon was known in the art and would have been obvious to include on the coupon of Miller-Planchard for rapid reading by machine. The specific code would amount to an obvious matter of design choice dependent upon industry standards.

Claim 43: Miller teaches a target consumer group.

Claim 44: As admitted by the applicant on page 20 of the response of 31 October 2005, it would have been obvious to distribute the product to consumer food service outlets that are restaurants.

5. Claims 26, 28, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller-Planchard-Admitted Prior Art, as applied to claims 24 and 25 above, and further in view of Matthews et al (US 4,007,577; hereinafter Matthews).

Claim 26: Miller-Planchard-Admitted Prior Art, as applied to claims 24 and 25 above, discloses the claimed invention except for the folding a sealing of a continuous web.

Matthews teaches the formation of condiment pouches by folding a continuous web **45A or 45B**. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the pouch of Miller-Planchard-Admitted Prior Art by folding a continuous web as taught by Matthews in order to produce the pouches at a high speed.

Claim 28: Miller-Planchard-Admitted Prior Art-Matthews, as applied to claim 26 above, discloses the claimed method.

Claim 29: Planchard anticipates a single, rectangular pouch section (Figure 8) and Matthews discloses the claimed sealing arrangement (see Figures 5 and 24).

6. Claims 5 and 45-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller-Planchard-Admitted Prior Art, as applied to claims 1, 4, 9, 11-16, 18-20, 24, 25, 43, and 44 above, and further in view of Chambers et al (US 2005/0086910 A1; previously provided; hereinafter Chambers).

Miller-Planchard-Admitted Prior Art, as applied to claims 1, 4, 9, 11-16, 18-20, 24, 25, 43, and 44 above, discloses the claimed invention except for the packaging in a shipping carton with subsequent reading of an indicator.

Chambers discloses placing pouches **22** in a shipping carton **24** with a machine-readable indicator **60** for transport with subsequent reading upon receipt. As the

indicator **60** is uniquely associated with the retained products it is also uniquely associated with the coupon. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the pouches of Miller-Planchard-Admitted Prior Art in a shipping carton as taught by Chambers in order to transport the pouches in bulk.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 11-16, 18-20, 24-26, 28, 29, and 43-49 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. This application contains claims 8, 10, 27, and 30-42 drawn to an invention nonelected with traverse in the reply of 12 July 2005. A complete reply to the final rejection must include cancellation of nonelected claims or other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144) See MPEP § 821.01.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within


TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory Pickett whose telephone number is 571-272-4560. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 11:30 AM - 8:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mickey Yu can be reached on 571-272-4562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Greg Pickett
Examiner
30 April 2006


Mickey Yu
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3700